

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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AUSTIN BILL THAT PROMOTES SMALL BUSINESS PASSED BY HOUSE

INDIANAPOLIS -- House Bill 1822, a small business regulatory flexibility bill that was authored by State Rep. Terri Austin (D-Anderson), was approved today by the House by a vote of 95 - 0. This is legislation that will give small businesses a say in government regulatory actions.

House Bill 1822 works to minimize the burden of unnecessary or inappropriate regulations on small businesses by requiring a state agency intending to change or adopt a rule that may affect small businesses to provide an economic impact statement for the new rule. State agencies also will be required to explore alternative options that would have less of a negative impact on small businesses.

"We have really focused on improving the economy in Indiana this session," said Austin. "If we want to improve the economy, we need to improve small business. House Bill 1822 will accomplish this."

Small businesses will be encouraged to submit opinions regarding regulatory changes and to assess whether the change would have a negative impact. Suggestions for alternative regulatory methods will be encouraged as well.

"I am pleased and excited that the legislators have recognized the importance of this bill," said Austin. "We are going to be one of the leaders in the country when it comes to small business regulation. By creating an environment that fosters small businesses, we will also be fostering the prosperity of Indiana."

There are more than 445,000 small businesses in Indiana which are responsible for approximately 48 percent of the jobs in the state. The income from small business in Indiana amounts to close to \$11 billion per year.

House Bill 1822 now moves to the Senate for further consideration.